

January 2012

What Montanans Are Saying about Max's Call to Action in the Bakken:

"We are facing a tsunami of a different sort in small towns across Eastern Montana because of the influx of oil companies and the workforce needed to develop natural resources here. Without having adequate warning the communities are struggling to provide services that we never imagined while watching our city streets and county roads demolished before our eyes. It is not feasible for us to keep up without some federal assistance. We appreciate Max listening to our concerns and urging the President to recognize that we must not let the opportunity to create thousands of good paying jobs and a chance to let us be independent of foreign oil slip away for lack of helping us provide infrastructure. The opportunity to develop a huge domestic oil supply and not depending on foreign governments presents an important turning point in the life of our nation. Here in Eastern Montana, we cannot do it without federal assistance on a large scale."

-Jerry Jimison, Mayor of Glendive, Mont.

"Max has hit the nail on the head with this one. The population of our community and surrounding area has nearly doubled over the past year resulting in alarming growth at our schools while stretching our water and sewage delivery systems to near maximum capacity. While there is a major influx of higher paying jobs in oil fields, the schools, town and county have not been as fortunate in filling vacant positions including everything from teachers to custodial and maintenance workers. The improvements that are needed to upgrade our infrastructure currently falls on the backs of local tax payers, many of whom share nothing but the inflation of the local economy busting at its seams."

-Paul Finnicum, Culbertson School Board Chairman and local business owner

"I have served as Chief of Police here in Sidney since 1981, having been hired to that position during the first oil boom. While those times were indeed hectic, they were relatively calm compared to what is now occurring in our community. Sidney's dramatic population increase has led to a dramatic increase in traffic issues related to the heavy flow of oil field related vehicles passing through our community each day. In addition, the housing crisis has led to people living in camper trailers, cars and any sort of shelter they can find and many of the new residents are families with young children. I believe that it is only due to the fact that we have experienced a mild winter here in eastern Montana that these conditions have not lead to some very serious and even tragic situations. These kinds of conditions can sometimes cause people to do things that may be desperate in an effort to survive, this leads to increases in crime. We are now experiencing a significant increase in the number of offenses reported and general calls for assistance along with dramatic increases in traffic problems due to the heavy flow of oil field related vehicles which pass through our community each day. An example of this problem is the 22% increase in traffic related issues over the previous year of 2010. Additionally, general law enforcement issues which include arrests, crimes reported, calls for assistance and other law enforcement

issues have risen approximately 12% over the previous year of 2010. Recent events tend to make me think that the crime will continue to become more serious with continued growth. I believe we need to add as many as 4 to 5 new officers to his department within the next 2-3 years. It is necessary for me to compete with other areas of local government for the funds to be able to insure the safety and well-being of the citizens of my community, the needs for funding for fire protection, schools, public sanitation, street maintenance and water and sewer issues are equally important and must also be met if we are to provide an adequate quality of life for our residents here in Sidney. I appreciate that Max has sought our input on these critical issues related to the boom in the oil industry in eastern Montana. In conjunction with Max's leadership, we look forward to working together to find solutions for the well-being of our communities. "

-Frank DiFonzo, Sidney, Mont. Police Chief

"The energy development in western North Dakota and eastern Montana is pressing the available infrastructure in the region to capacity. We trust Max's clout and seniority will help elevate this important issue for us. With appropriate resources and planning, this economic development opportunity can provide thousands of jobs for Americans and long term economic stability in the region. "

-Jason Rittal, Executive Director of the Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation which serves Prairie, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon and Carter counties.